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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report details trends in the well-being of the District of Columbia's children. Following an executive summary which describes overall findings, the bulk of the report presents the statistical portrait, based on nine areas of children's well-being: (1) general population trends; (2) economic security; (3) family attachment and community support; (4) child day care; (5) homeless children and families; (6) child health; (7) safety and personal security; (8) education; and (9) selected indicators by ward. The third section addresses youth risk behavior issues, including school violence, other violence, vehicular safety, substance abuse and sexual behavior. The fourth section provides an update on welfare reform in the District. The fifth section describes D.C. Kids County strategies and recommendations which include the following recommendations for D.C. schools: (1) curriculum changes; (2) safety and security; (3) facilities; (4) support and aid to young people; and (5) building community. The final two sections provide further information on data gathering and acknowledgments. The report finds that youth crime and teen violent death rates have improved, but describes the overall circumstances for children in the District as perilous. (SD)

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The D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative for Children and Families is a unique alliance of public and private organizations using research to support advocacy for change in human, social, and economic policies and practices of government, the private sector, families, neighborhoods, and individuals. Its mission is to advocate for the interests and well-being of children and families and to ensure their healthy development and future in the District of Columbia. An organizing goal of the collaborative is to build a strong and serious child and family support movement in the Nation's Capital.

Since the formation in 1990 of the Collaborative's predecessor organization, the Coalition for Children and Families, over 80 individuals and organizations representing a broad and diverse group of advocates, service providers, government policy makers, universities, fraternal and volunteer organizations, and local citizens have been a part of the group.

The Collaborative supports a comprehensive approach to community building, but focuses its research and advocacy efforts on economic security, family attachment and community support, health, safety and personal security, and education.

D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative
Partner Agencies

D.C. Children's Trust Fund for the Prevention of Child Abuse
Overall fiscal and management responsibility
Data collection, analysis and evaluation
Production of publications

Children's National Medical Center
Media/data dissemination
Public education/awareness

The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness
Collection, evaluation and dissemination of information about best models and practices
Development of quality standards and measures

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EVERY KID COUNTS
in the District of Columbia:

5th ANNUAL FACT BOOK

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kids count

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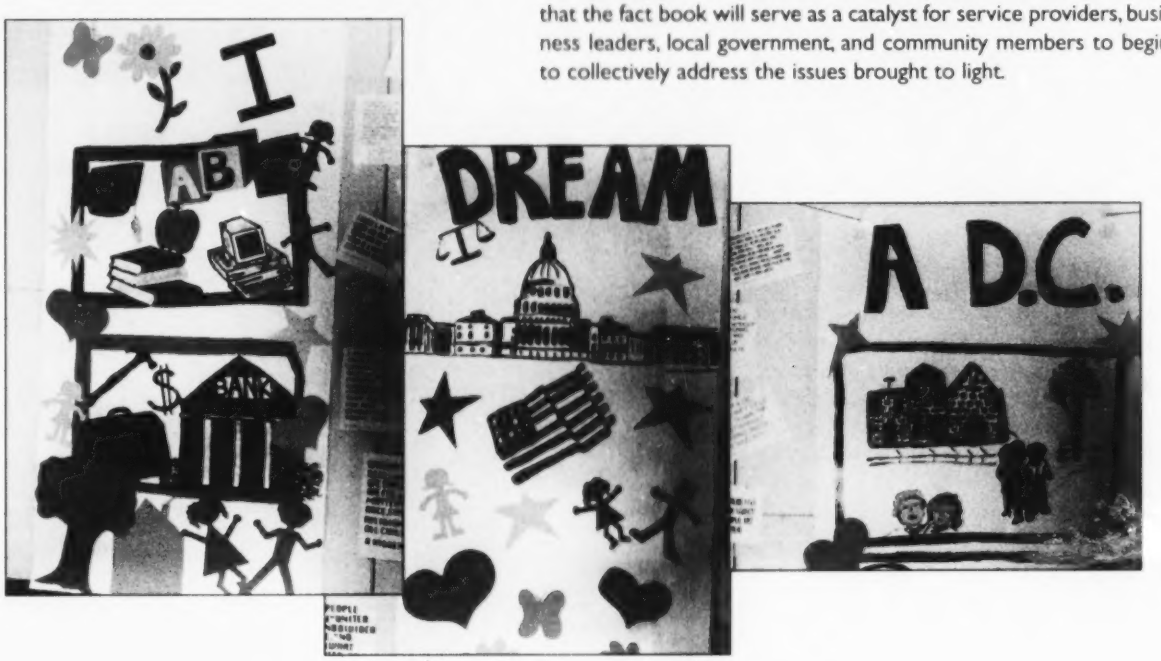
Purpose of the Fact Book

This fact book is the fifth annual report produced by the D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative on the lives of children and their families in the District. The purpose of the annual fact book is to provide data about the well-being of children in the District of Columbia and to place the statistics within a meaningful context. The majority of the indicators reported herein were selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Center for the Study of Social Policy to mirror those reported in the National KIDS COUNT Data book that Casey produces annually. D.C. KIDS COUNT has expanded the original list to include additional indicators that are relevant to the District of Columbia.

This publication provides a broad view of the status of children and youth in the District. We seek to inform our readers about the issues affecting children and their families in the District and to encourage community residents, policy makers, and professionals and others who work with and on behalf of children and families to work to create conditions that foster the optimal health and development of our children.

As usual, we stress the importance of family and community in the lives of our children. We at KIDS COUNT believe that an approach based on systems theory is needed to affect real change in the District. Accordingly, children, families, communities, and government institutions are viewed as an integrated whole. Thus, malfunction in one area impacts the entire system. In devising solutions to the problems facing children in the District, the interactions and relationships among and between the components of the system must be understood and the systemic impact of any changes considered.

We hope that community leaders will use this report, in conjunction with previous reports, for formulating strategic plans and policies that support children and families in the District. We also hope that the fact book will serve as a catalyst for service providers, business leaders, local government, and community members to begin to collectively address the issues brought to light.



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 1998 fact book provides the most recent data that were available at press time on each of the selected indicators of child well-being. This year's book presents additional indicators that were not contained in the 1997 fact book including data on sexually transmitted diseases among youth and youth risk behavior.

The figures reported herein may not match those reported for the District of Columbia in the 1998 National KIDS COUNT Data Book published by The Annie E. Casey Foundation for the following reasons: 1) the primary source of our data is the District of Columbia Government, while the national book employs data from federal agencies which sometimes use different data collection methods; and 2) our fact book is more current, containing data from 1996, 1997, and 1998 — whereas the national book employs mainly 1995 and 1996 data. In addition, D.C. KIDS COUNT reports on many indicators that are not included in the national volume.

Youth crime and teen violent deaths are two important areas where the statistics look brighter in the District this year. Otherwise, the changes in the indicators are a mixed bag, showing signs of improvement in some areas but deterioration in others. A new survey yields sobering figures on the percentage of D.C. youth engaging in such risky activities as carrying weapons, drinking and driving, and having sex with multiple partners. Overall, the circumstances for children in the District remain perilous.

General Population Trends

- In recent years families with children have been fleeing the District. A survey by the Greater Washington Research Center found that the number of children in District households declined by 15 percent from 1990 to 1996 to under 96,700. In the same period, the number of births dropped by a staggering 29 percent due to a decline in fertility and a decrease in the number of adults of childbearing age.
- The declining fertility rate has caused a decline in such indicators as the number of births to single mothers, the number of low-birth weight babies, and the number of infant deaths. To prevent mistaken conclusions about decreases in these indicators, we show most of them in terms of rates, e.g., the percent of all babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds or the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Stated in such terms, the statistics do not always show improvement. In relation to all births, some have been getting worse, as we will point out in succeeding sections of this report.

Economic Security

- In 1990, 25.5 percent of children in D.C. were living in poverty, compared to 16.7 percent of the general population. Poverty was highest in Wards 8, 2, and 7.
- In 1997, 46,556 children in the District received public assistance. That number was down for the second consecutive year — by five percent from 1996, and by eight percent from the peak level in 1995. Nonetheless, almost half of the estimated 96,700 children in District households in 1996 received AFDC.
- The District of Columbia has more jobs than people. Yet 22,000 of the city's residents are unemployed and seeking work. Thousands more are discouraged workers. Unless ways are developed to provide many more D.C. adults with employment at a living wage, the situation of the District's children threatens to become much worse as the new century begins.

Family Attachment and Community Support

- In 1996, 55 percent of the District's children were living in homes where the father was absent. This percentage has been increasing rapidly.
- The share of D.C. births that were to unmarried mothers was unchanged in 1996 at 66 percent, breaking a sharp decline that had brought the figure down from 73 percent in 1993. Because the total number of births has been dropping so rapidly, this still represents a decrease of 392 births to single mothers since 1995.
- The percentage of all births that were to teen mothers increased sharply from 15.5 percent in 1995 to

16.8 percent in 1996. This figure had declined for the previous two years.

- In 1997, paternity cases filed with the D.C. Courts also increased after a two-year decline.
- New child support cases declined in 1997 for the third straight year. Nonetheless, there were still more new cases than in any year prior to 1994.
- Child neglect cases increased for the third consecutive year.

Child Health

- The number of low birth weight babies (i.e., babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth) declined slightly in 1996. However, because there was a much larger decrease in the number of births, the percent of births that were below normal weight actually increased, reversing a decline of three years standing.
- The adequacy of prenatal care for D.C. mothers continued to improve in 1996, as it has been doing since 1993. The percentage of mothers recorded as having received "adequate" care increased from 51 percent to 53.7 percent.
- The infant mortality rate, which is the number of deaths to babies less than a year old per 1,000 live births, dropped sharply from 16.6 to 14.4. The decline is highly encouraging, but still leaves the rate far above the national level, which currently stands at 7.6.
- The incidence of AIDS continues to rise among D.C. children. Through the end of 1997, 157 cases had been diagnosed among children aged 12 and under, of whom 87 were living with the disease and 70 had died. Among those ages 13 through 19, 40 had been diagnosed with AIDS, of whom 10 had died. In virtually all cases of AIDS among children under 13, it had been contracted from the mother while the child was in the womb.
- Deaths occurred to 261 children and teens in 1996, seven percent fewer than in 1995. The largest reduction in number of deaths was for babies under one year—121 of them died, a 17 percent reduction from 1995. Nonetheless, the number of deaths to children was highest for this age group. There was also a four percent decrease in the number of deaths to teens—from 93 in 1995 to 89 in 1996.

Safety and Personal Security

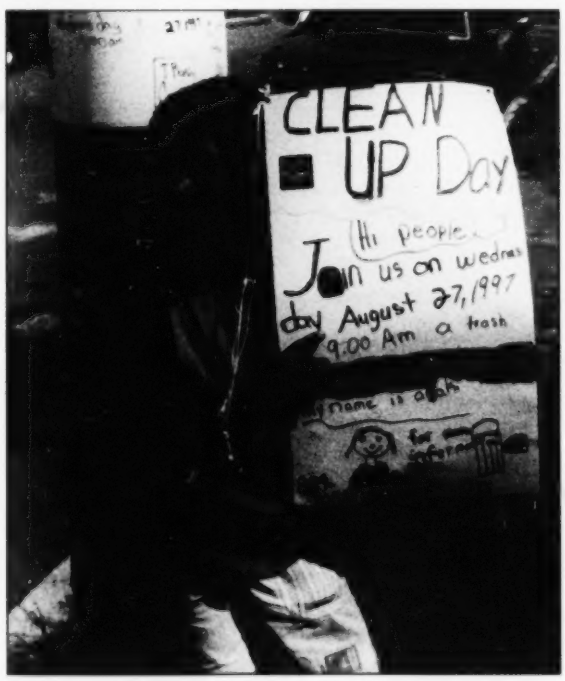
- The Youth Risk Behavior Survey, administered in many states and the District of Columbia, yields data on a wide range of behaviors that expose teenagers to risk of disease, injury, or death. In the District, 1,356 high school students responded to the 1997 study. Of those surveyed, 32 percent reported that they had carried a weapon within the 30 days prior to the survey. In the same period 35 percent had ridden in a car where the driver had been drinking; 18 percent had taken five or more drinks within a two hour period; and 29 percent had used marijuana. At some time in their lives, 71 percent said they had had sexual intercourse and 38 percent had had sex with four or more people. Ten percent had attempted suicide within the past 12 months.
- Total violent deaths to teens (i.e., murders, suicides, accidents, and death at the hands of police) declined again in 1996. The number in that year was 78, eight fewer than in 1995 and 26 percent below the record peak of 106 reached in 1993.
- The number of teens murdered also decreased, drop-

ping to 67 in 1996 from 78 in 1995. Although there was a 14 percent decline, this indicator is still much higher than in any year prior to 1989, which was shortly after the wave of guns and crack hit the District.

- If it were not for the murders, few D.C. teens would die violently. In 1996 the only other causes of deaths to teens were nine accidents and two suicides. Accidents were up sharply, from five the year before. Suicides were down from three to two.
- The number of juvenile crimes referred to the D.C. Courts decreased sharply from 4,012 in 1996 to 3,395 in 1997. Juvenile cases had been generally declining since they peaked in 1989, but the 1997 decline brought the level of referrals well below that of 1980. The level of "reactivations" of old cases, usually re-opened as a result of further misbehavior, also dropped by 28 percent.
- Cases against juveniles for "Acts Against Public Order," the crimes of which D.C. youngsters are most often accused, were down by 18 percent in 1997. Most of these cases involved narcotics and weapons charges.
- Referrals of youths to court for crimes against persons were down by five percent, the third decrease in as many years.
- Cases brought against juveniles for property crimes dropped by 26 percent. Most of these involved unauthorized use of automobiles.
- From 1996 to 1997, child abuse cases were down somewhat from 273 to 253. Despite the fact that such cases have been in a general decline in recent years, this level was above that of 1993 or 1995. In cases of both abuse and neglect, the most frequent victims were children under the age of one year.

Education

- The Public Schools have switched from the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) to a new kind of achievement test, the Stanford 9. While the results of the Stanford 9 cannot be compared directly to those of the CTBS, two years of experience with the new test reveal the same general pattern as the CTBS: students begin in the early grades with scores at or above national norms, but their scores deteriorate as they advance in the grades. The Stanford 9 even shows a marked decline between first and second grades.
- The Stanford 9 test measures the percentages of students who perform at four levels of proficiency from "below basic" to "advanced". "Below basic" level means little or no mastery was achieved for their grade level. In first grade reading, 14 percent of D.C. students were "below basic" in 1997, vs. 12 percent for the nation. By second grade 40 percent were "below basic" vs. 25 percent for the nation, and in 10th and 11th grades, half or more were "below basic," once more far above the national percentages.
- The high school graduation rate, which had been declining for three years, improved in 1997 to 55.5 percent from 48 percent in 1996. This brings it to about the same level as many previous years. Nonetheless, it means that 44.5 percent of students still do not receive diplomas, a fact that will hamper their employment opportunities.
- Early childhood education enrollment appears to be down somewhat in kindergarten. The 1997-1998 total was down by 487 from the previous year. It should be noted that charter school enrollment data were not available. Pre-kindergarten enrollment was down by a mere 15 pupils, while pre-school enrollment was up by 172.



II. SELECTED INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A. GENERAL POPULATION TRENDS

1. The District's population has been decreasing, with many families with children relocating to the suburbs.

The District's population has been shrinking since the 1950's, but the rate of loss has accelerated recently to nearly twice that of earlier decades. Between 1990 and 1997 it lost nearly 78,000 people, reaching a low of 528,974 residents — 13 percent fewer than when the decade began, and the lowest level since the Great Depression.

A 1996 Greater Washington Research Center survey of households that had recently moved to the suburbs from the District of Columbia identified several reasons for the exodus of families from D.C. The vast majority of families moving out of the District have been African American. The greater availability of well-paying jobs in government and the private sector for African Americans and equal opportunity housing laws have enabled upwardly-mobile African American families to take advantage of the abundant supply of good housing, better public schools, and reduced threat of crime offered by the District's suburbs. Crime was the number one reason cited by African Americans for leaving D.C.

Many of those leaving have been families with children. A survey of over 8,500 District residents conducted by the Greater Washington Research Center showed that the number of children in District households declined by 15 percent, from 114,200 in 1990 to 96,800 in 1996. Again, this loss continues a decades-long trend. In 1960 there were about 220,000 children living in the District, more than twice the number today.

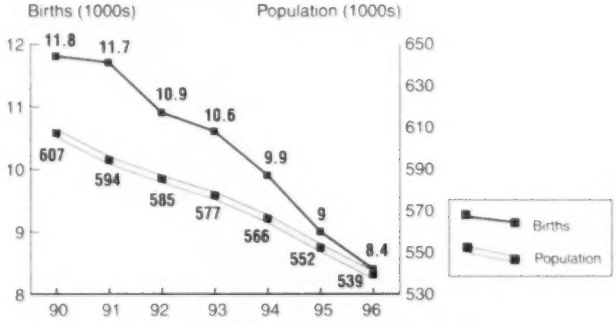
The unfortunate consequences of this outward migration of middle-income African American families include a shrinking local tax base, the destabilization of neighborhoods, and the economic and social isolation of low income families.

2. Births have declined even more rapidly than the population.

Births to D.C. residents have also been declining. The latest available figure, 8,377 live births in 1996, is down by a staggering 29 percent since the 1990 peak. Births dropped by more than 600 between 1995 and 1996 alone, bringing the number below the 1980 level. The rate of decline in births has been more than twice as great as the population decline.

There has been a nationwide decline in births in recent years. Between 1990 and 1996, the number of births nationally declined by seven percent. In the District, however, the more important reason for the decline in births has been the loss of persons of child-bearing age. The Greater Washington Research Center found that 33,600 fewer people aged 15 to 44 (the prime years for family formation and childbearing) resided in the District in 1996 than in 1990, representing a 12 percent decrease over this period.

CHANGE IN BIRTHS VS. POPULATION, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1990-1996



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau
Note: Because complete data for 1997 are not available, this chart compares births and population only for 1990 through 1996.

3. Four out of five children in the District are African-American.

According to the Greater Washington Research Center, 80 percent of the District's children were African-American in 1996, although the overall population was only 64 percent African American. The percentage of African-American children was the same as that reported in the 1990 Census, despite a decline in the overall child population since that year. The reason for this is that most of the

white households in the District are childless. In fact, only about 11 percent or 9,400 of the city's 85,500 white households have children, while 31 percent of African American households have children.

B. ECONOMIC SECURITY

1. The District of Columbia ranked 17th among the 25 largest U.S. cities in the percent of its people who were in poverty by federal standards at the 1990 Census.

The 1990 Census reported that 17 percent of District residents were living below the federal poverty level. However, the income levels below which households are determined to be in poverty are national figures and are not adjusted for local living costs. Thus, since Washington is a much more expensive place to live than most other cities, many more families are living under circumstances of economic hardship, although they are not considered to be living in poverty by federal guidelines. The federal poverty thresholds are very stringent. In 1996, a family consisting of a mother and one child under 18 would be above the poverty threshold if they had an income over $10,815. For a mother with two children, the threshold was $12,641.

More recent survey data from the Greater Washington Research Center indicate that about 80,000 persons in District households or 16 percent were living in poverty in 1996 vs. 93,600 in 1990. The 17 percent reduction in poor persons since 1990 was primarily due to the decline in the District's population during this period.

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN THE 25 LARGEST U.S. CITIES, 1990

City	Percent of Persons Below Poverty Level
Detroit, MI	32.4%
Cleveland, OH	28.7%
El Paso, TX	25.3%
Memphis, TN	23.0%
San Antonio, TX	22.6%
Milwaukee, WI	22.2%
Baltimore, MD	21.9%
Chicago, IL	21.6%
Houston, TX	20.7%
Philadelphia, PA	20.3%
New York, NY	19.3%
Los Angeles, CA	18.9%
Boston, MA	18.7%
Dallas, TX	18.0%
Austin, TX	17.9%
Columbus, OH	17.2%
WASHINGTON, DC	**16.9%**
Phoenix, AZ	14.2%
Nashville-Davidson, TN	13.4%
San Diego, CA	13.4%
Jacksonville, FL	13.0%
San Francisco, CA	12.7%
Indianapolis, IN	12.5%
Seattle, WA	12.4%
San Jose, CA	9.3%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1990

2. Poverty in the District is highest among children, single mothers, and persons living in Wards 8, 7, and 2.

In 1990, 25.5 percent of all children in the District of Columbia were living under the federal poverty threshold. In Ward 8, the percentage was 38.7, followed by Ward 7 at 32.0 percent, and Ward 2 at 30.6 percent.

Poverty is quite high in some parts of the city. In Ward 8, 28.1 percent of all persons were in poverty in 1990. In both Ward 2 and Ward 7, more than 20 percent of all persons were living in poverty.

Poverty is highest among families headed by single mothers. In the District in 1990, 33 percent of female-headed families were in poverty. In Ward 8, the figure was 45.3 percent; in Ward 2 it was 37.4 percent; in Ward 1 it was 35.9 percent; and in Ward 7 it was 34.3 percent.

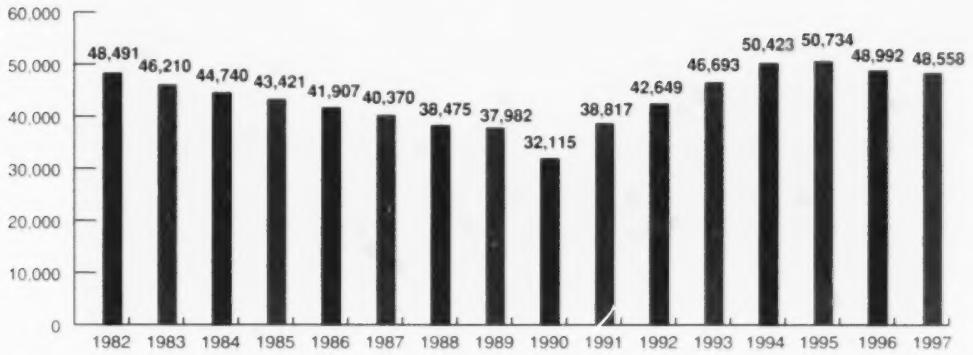
3. The number of D.C. children receiving welfare assistance decreased for the second year in a row, yet nearly half of the District's children remain on welfare.

Under the "Welfare Reform Act of 1996", the type of welfare assistance that was formerly known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was radically reformed and became Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). (See Section IV. of this report for more details on this transformation.)

In 1997, 46,556 children in the District of Columbia received Welfare. That number was down from 48,992 in 1996, a drop of five percent. The 1997 figure was down by about eight percent from the peak level of 50,734 reached in 1995.

It is likely that the number of children receiving public assistance will continue to decline, as the aforemen-

CHILDREN RECEIVING WELFARE ASSISTANCE
District of Columbia 1982-1997



Source: D.C. Income Maintenance Administration

tioned legislation imposes stringent term limits on recipients. Under the new regulations, federally funded public assistance will not be provided for more than five years during a person's lifetime, even if work is unavailable.

4. The District has more jobs than people, yet many thousands of its people are unemployed or discouraged workers.

The majority of jobs in the District are filled by persons who do not live in D.C. According to the D.C. Department of Employment Services, in April of 1998, the District of Columbia had 609,000 jobs, and the number of residents either working or looking for work numbered only 265,000. Nonetheless, 22,000 or 8.3 percent of D.C. residents were unemployed (i.e., looking for work but unable to secure jobs). In comparison, unemployment was only 2.2 percent in the District's suburbs.

The official unemployment rate, like the poverty rate, tells only part of the story. Many more D.C. adults are what the U.S. Department of Labor calls "discouraged workers" — people who have given up looking for jobs because they have become convinced that there is no hope of obtaining one. Because they are no longer looking, they are not counted in the unemployment statistics.

One reason for the high number of unemployed and discouraged workers in D.C. is that there is a mismatch between job requirements and skill levels. Increasingly, the jobs available in D.C. are professional and technical in nature, and require college degrees or technical training. There are substantially fewer living-wage jobs for unskilled workers. Given that almost 50 percent of D.C. students do not graduate from high school (see Section H. Education), it is likely that many do not have the job qualifications required by the growing job sectors in D.C.

5. The number of jobs available in the District of Columbia has been declining almost as rapidly as its population.

The number of jobs in D.C. has decreased from nearly 684,000 in 1990 to 609,000 in 1998, a drop of about 75,000 or 11 percent. The main reason is that government jobs have been declining. Since 1990, the city has lost about 48,000 jobs in the federal and District governments combined. Most of the losses were due to budget cuts. Many of these jobs had been held by D.C. residents. In the same period, D.C. has also lost 27,000 jobs in the private sector. Most of those jobs have migrated to the suburbs.

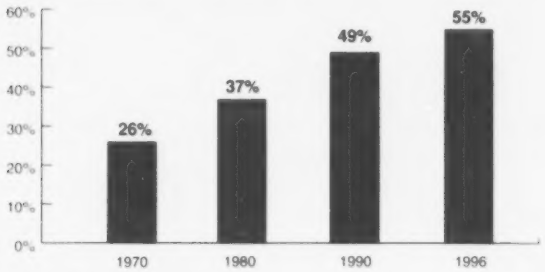
The District's civilian labor force has also declined, from 327,000 in 1990 to 265,000 in 1998 — a drop of over 62,000 persons or 19 percent, reflecting heavy losses among the city's adult population. The unemployment rate has been increasing at the same time. Unemployment in D.C. was 7.2 percent of the labor force in April of 1990, vs. 8.3 percent in April of 1998.

C. FAMILY ATTACHMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1. Over half of the District's children are growing up in homes where the father is absent.

According to survey data from the Greater Washington Research Center, in 1996, 55 percent of the District's children were living in homes where the father did not reside. About 42 percent were living with their mothers only, and about 13 percent lived with grandparents or other relatives. The percentage of D.C. children who are not living with their fathers has climbed rapidly in recent decades. In 1970, the figure was only 26 percent. In 1990, it was 49 percent.

PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN HOMES WITH ABSENT FATHERS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1970 - 1996



Source: 1970 - 1990, U.S. Census of Population
1996, Greater Washington Research Center

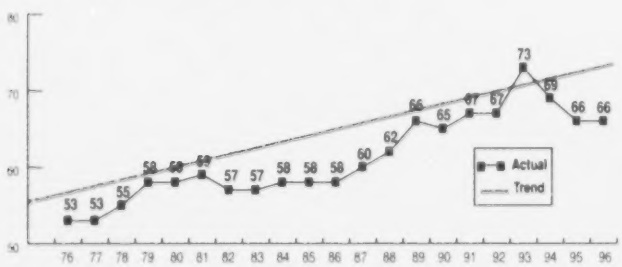
2. The percent of births to single mothers has leveled off after two years of decline.

In 1996, nearly two-thirds — 66 percent — of all births in the District of Columbia were to unmarried mothers. This is the same percentage as in 1995, and marks the end of a sharp but brief decline that had brought the figure down from an unprecedented 73 percent in 1993.

Since at least 1972 there have never been more than two consecutive years of decline. The only other time this occurred, in the mid-1980s, the percentage increased sharply the very next year. Presently, it has merely leveled off, which perhaps may be an indicator of better readings to come.

Because the total number of births has been dropping so rapidly, however, the latest percentage still represents a decrease of 392 births to single mothers since 1995. This substantial decrease in number has occurred solely as a result of the decline in total number of total births, while the percentage of those births that were to single mothers has not changed at all.

TREND IN PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO SINGLE MOTHERS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1976-1996



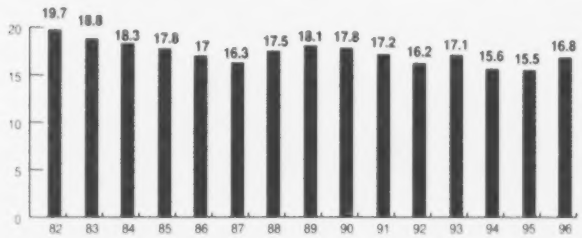
Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

3. Births to teenage mothers have increased after two years of decline.

The percentage of births that occur to mothers still in their teens increased to 16.8 percent in 1996 from 15.5 percent in 1995. In this case the shift reversed a downward trend of two years standing.

The percent of births that are to teenagers has been far higher in the past, however, and the long-term trend has been downward. There is reason to hope that it will resume. Because the total number of births in the District has been declining, this year's substantial increase in the percentage represented only 14 more babies born to teens than the year before.

TREND IN PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1982-1996



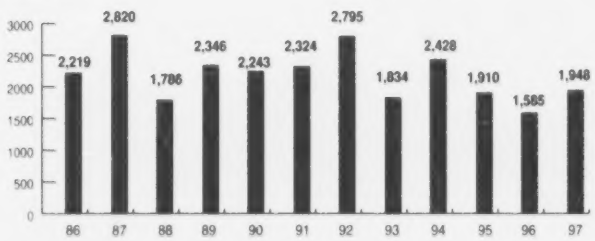
Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

4. Paternity cases have increased after two consecutive years of decline.

Cases alleging paternity increased sharply by 363 cases from 1,585 in 1996 to 1,948 in 1997. This ended a two-year period of decline. The 1996 level was below any year since 1986.

Paternity cases have a long history of substantial and rapid fluctuations. Next year could very well show another decline — or cases could move upward by several hundred once more.

CASES FILED FOR PATERNITY, D.C. SUPERIOR COURT
1986-1997*

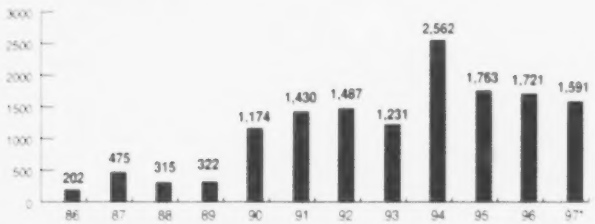


Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports.
* Data for 1997 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts.

5. Child support cases have declined for the third year in a row, but still remain much more numerous than in the years prior to 1994.

At 1,591 in 1997, new cases filed for child support with the D.C. Superior Court were at their lowest level since 1994, but they still exceeded any number filed prior to that year. Before 1990 such cases were relatively rare, seldom more than a few hundred a year. In 1990 the number spurted upward to nearly 1,200 and has never been as low since. The reasons have probably been strengthened enforcement and greater public attention to the problem.

CASES FILED FOR CHILD SUPPORT, D.C. SUPERIOR COURT 1985-1997

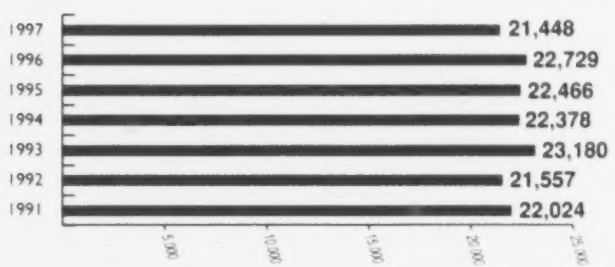


Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports.
*Data for 1997 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts.

D. CHILD DAY CARE

The number of day care slots available in licensed child development facilities was 21,448 in 1997, a decrease of 1,281 or about six percent from 1996. This number is lower than any other year since 1991.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SLOTS IN LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1991-1997



Source: D.C. Office of Early Childhood Development.

E. HOMELESS CHILDREN

A total of 2,845 children in families entered the District's shelter system in 1997, according to the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP), the non-profit organization which administers the publicly funded homeless system in the District of Columbia. Fifty-seven percent of these children were 5 years of age or younger.

The number of families that applied for emergency shelter was 1,074 in 1997, down from 1,406 in 1996. Of the families that applied in 1997, 391 were placed in emergency apartments or alternative placements.

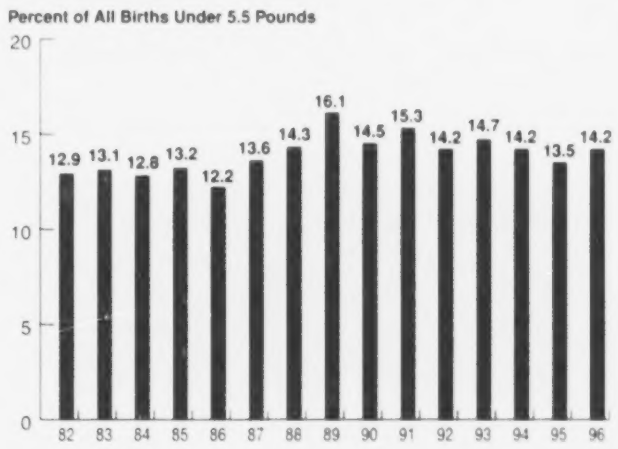
TCP-funded homeless programs served approximately 802 families with 1,527 children in short-term placements, transitional, and permanent supportive housing programs in 1997. TCP estimates that an additional 390 families with 780 children were served by transitional and permanent housing programs which did not receive TCP funds.

F. CHILD HEALTH

1. The number of low birth weight babies has declined slightly, but the percentage relative to total births has gone up.

Between 1995 and 1996, the number of low birth weight infants decreased by 27 to 1,187, or two percent. At the same time, however, total births decreased by 616, or seven percent. As a result, the percentage that low birth weight babies made up of all live births increased from 13.5 to 14.2.

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1982-1996



Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics.

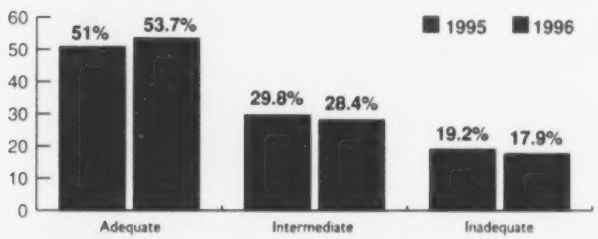
2. The adequacy of prenatal care has improved further.

The adequacy of a mother's prenatal care is determined by a somewhat complex method that takes into account how soon after conception care was initiated, as well as the number of prenatal visits she had in relation to the length of her pregnancy. In general, a woman's prenatal care is defined as adequate if she began receiving it in the first trimester and, if her pregnancy lasted the full nine months, she had at least nine visits. (See Section VI. A Word About the Data for more explanation.)

Between 1995 and 1996, the percentage of D.C. mothers recorded as receiving "adequate" prenatal care increased from 51 to 53.7. The percentage whose care was judged "inadequate" declined from 19.2 percent to 17.9 percent. The share of mothers receiving care defined as "intermediate" decreased slightly, from 29.8 percent to 28.4 percent.

The percentage of mothers whose care was defined as "adequate" has been increasing since 1993.

ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE FOR D.C. MOTHERS 1995 AND 1996



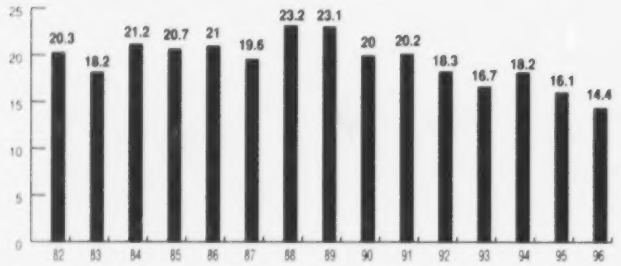
Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

3. The infant mortality rate dropped sharply in 1996, suggesting an improvement in prenatal care.

The infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to babies one year of age and under per 1,000 live births. In the District, that rate has been fluctuating rapidly up and down from one year to the next since 1982, the earliest year for which we have data. Despite the fluctuations, the overall trend has clearly been downward, consistent with a declining national trend.

In 1996 the District's infant mortality rate dropped to 14.4 from 16.1 in 1995. This brought it to its lowest level since at least 1982. While it is still far higher than the national level, which currently stands at just below 8, this decline is encouraging.

TREND IN INFANT MORTALITY RATE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1982-1996



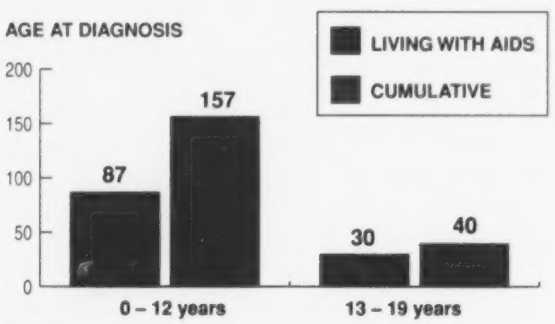
Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

4. Pediatric AIDS cases are more common among those 12 years of age and under.

As of December 1997, 157 children aged 12 and under in the District of Columbia were diagnosed with AIDS. Of these children, 70 had died as a result of their illness and 87 were living with the disease. In the 13 to 19 year age group, 40 young people were diagnosed with AIDS, 30 of whom were living with the disease.

To date, pediatric AIDS cases have been diagnosed more often in children 12 and younger than in youth ages 13 through 19. The reason for this preponderance of cases among younger children is that most cases of pediatric AIDS have been perinatal, that is the virus was contracted from the mother while the child was in the womb.

AIDS CASES BY AGE GROUP THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1997 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Source: Agency for HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Epidemiology Division

5. Sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) are on the rise among children in the District.

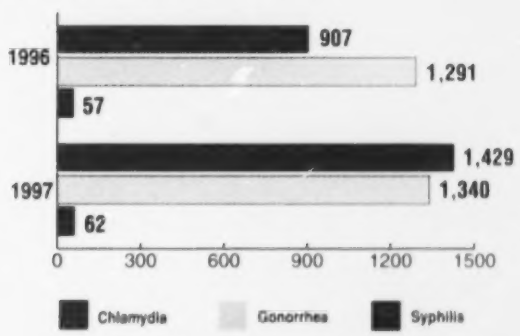
In 1997, according to the District's STD Surveillance Unit, 13 cases of syphilis, 8 cases of gonorrhea, and 26 cases of chlamydia were diagnosed in D.C. children under five years old. These diseases are far more common, however, among older children, and among teenagers in particular. In 1997

a total of 2,831 cases of STDs were diagnosed in children under 20 years of age living in the District. This number was up by 576 cases or 26 percent from the 2,255 recorded in 1996. In both years, persons under 20 accounted for 34 percent of all STD cases diagnosed. In both 1996 and 1997, 90 percent of all cases in children under age 20 occurred among 15 to 19 year olds.

In 1997, 45 youths between 15 and 19 were diagnosed with syphilis, 1,228 with gonorrhea, and 1,261 with chlamydia. Among children aged 10 to 14, there were three cases of syphilis, 97 of gonorrhea, and 135 of chlamydia — 235 cases of STDs in all.

The incidence of all three of these STDs increased between 1996 and 1997, but the incidence of chlamydia increased the most by far. In persons under 20, syphilis was up by nine percent, gonorrhea by four percent, and chlamydia by 58 percent. Chlamydia, which often occurs with gonorrhea, is now the most common STD and is increasing the most rapidly. Some of the recorded increase in chlamydia may be due to better methods of diagnosis and increased attention to this disease, which in the past was sometimes overlooked. Regardless, the total figure of 1,429 cases in 1997 is staggering.

CASES OF SYPHILIS, GONORRHEA, AND CHLAMYDIA DIAGNOSED IN PERSONS UNDER AGE 20 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1996-1997



Source: D.C. Bureau of STD Control, Surveillance Unit

G. SAFETY AND PERSONAL SECURITY

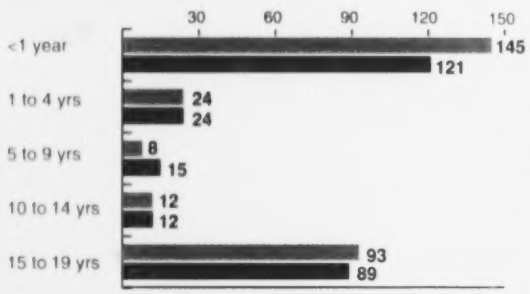
1. The number of deaths to children and teens declined from 1995 to 1996.

There was a seven percent decline in deaths to children and youth under the age of 20, from 282 in 1995 to 261 in 1996. The largest number of deaths was among babies under one year of age at 121, however, the greatest decrease from 1995 to 1996 was also among this group. In 1996 the number of infant deaths declined 17 percent to 97. The reason for this reduction was twofold — first, there were fewer children born in D.C., and second, there was an improvement in prenatal care. Nonetheless, the number is still much higher than the 1996 national average of 7 infant deaths per 1,000.

The 15 to 19 year old age group had the second highest number of deaths in 1996. This figure decreased four percent, from 93 in 1995 to 89 in 1996. Guns, drugs, and cars are important factors in deaths among this age group.

There was no reduction in the number of child deaths in the one to four age group from 1995 to 1996. There was, however, an increase in deaths among those aged five to nine years — from eight deaths in 1995 to 15 in 1996. The reason is unknown, but the increase is fairly small and could result from random factors. The number of deaths in the 10-14 age group remained constant from 1995 to 1996 at 12.

CHILD AND TEEN DEATHS BY AGE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1995 AND 1996



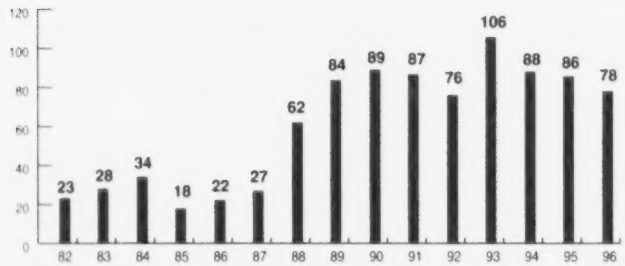
Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

2. Violent deaths to teens from all causes have decreased.

In 1996 the number of violent deaths among teens ages 15 through 19 decreased to 78 from 86 the year before. This is the third decrease in as many years and is the lowest number since 1992, bringing the number of violent deaths to teens close to their 1992 level of 76. The 1997 figure is 26 percent below the record peak of 106 reached in 1993.

Nonetheless, far more teens died violently in 1996 than in any year prior to 1988, when they generally numbered less than three dozen. In and after that year, large-scale importation to the District of guns and drugs (primarily crack cocaine) sharply raised the level of violence, especially murders, among young people.

VIOLENT DEATHS TO TEENS AGES 15 TO 19 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1982-1996



Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

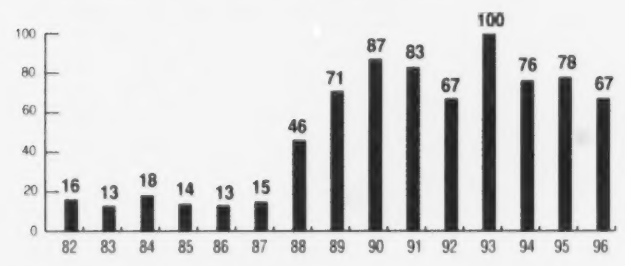
3. The number of teens murdered has also declined.

Deaths of teens age 15 to 19 due to homicide and "legal intervention" (i.e., death at the hands of police) also decreased in 1996, dropping to 67 from 78 in 1995. The decline in murders accounted for nearly all of the decrease in violent deaths to teens.

The last time the number of teen murders was as low as 67 was in 1992. The last time it was lower than 67 was in 1988, when it was 46. In every year from 1982 to 1987, the number of murders was never above 20.

With fewer young people now living in the District than there were in 1980, the number of homicides among teens should continue to decline each year to at least that low level. The recent decline gives us reason to hope that it may be the case.

DEATHS TO TEENS AGES 15 TO 19 BY HOMICIDE AND LEGAL INTERVENTION, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1982-1996

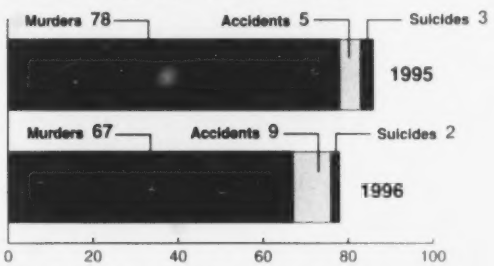


Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Were it not for the murders, only a small number of D.C. teens would die violently each year. In 1996 there were only 11 teen deaths that were not due to homicide — nine accidents and two suicides. The number of accidents was up sharply from only five the year before. The number of suicides was down from three to two.

In fact, if not for violence, relatively few teens would die from any cause. The total number of deaths to 15-to-19 year-olds from non-violent causes (heart trouble, cancer, etc.) was only 11, bringing the total number of deaths to this age group from all causes combined to 89 in 1996.

CAUSES OF VIOLENT DEATHS TO TEENS 15 TO 10 YEARS OLD DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1995 and 1996



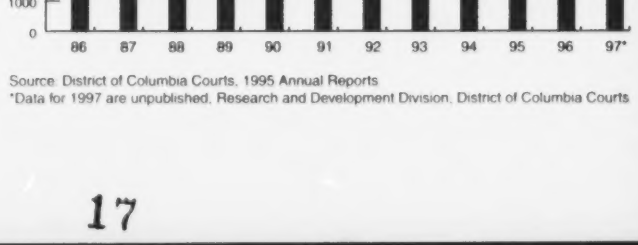
Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

4. Juvenile cases referred to D.C. Superior Court for all causes decreased sharply, reaching their lowest level since 1986.

In 1997, new referrals of juveniles to D.C. Superior Court numbered 3,395. This was a 15 percent decline from the 1996 level of 4,012. While a general downward trend in juvenile cases had been in evidence since 1989, it had been quite gradual with intermittent reversals.

The new level of referrals marks the largest yearly decrease since 1980 in either numerical or percentage terms. It brings the total 28 percent below that of 1980. The level of "reactivations" of old cases, usually re-opened as a result of further undesirable behavior on the part of the youthful offenders, also dropped sharply in 1997 to 973, 28 percent lower than the year before.

JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR ALL CAUSES, 1986 TO 1997

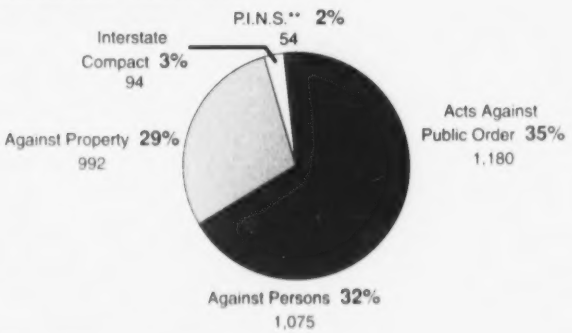


Source: District of Columbia Courts, 1995 Annual Reports
*Data for 1997 are unpublished. Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

5. "Acts Against Public Order," the crimes of which juveniles are most frequently accused, are also down markedly.

Juvenile defendants were brought to the D. C. Courts for 1,180 alleged "Acts Against Public Order" in 1997. This figure was down sharply from 1,441 in 1996, an 18 percent decrease. Public order offenses are now the most common reason for which youth come into contact with the courts in the District; in 1997 they made up 35 percent of all new juvenile referrals. A 55 percent majority of these cases alleged possession of narcotics, and another 14 percent involved weapons charges.

JUVENILE NEW REFERRALS BY TYPE OF ACT
D.C. SUPERIOR COURT, 1997

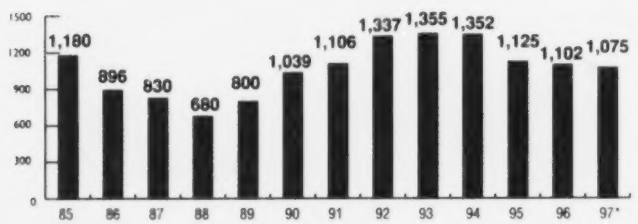


Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
* data for 1997 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts
**Persons in Need of Supervision

6. Offenses against persons, now the second most common type of youth crime, decreased slightly.

In 1997 offenses against persons made up 32 percent of new cases brought against juveniles in the District. D.C. teenagers came before the Courts for 1,075 alleged crimes against persons. This represents a five percent reduction from 1996. The number of crimes against persons decreased for three consecutive years, reaching the lowest level since 1990.

JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR OFFENSES AGAINST PERSONS, 1985-1997*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 1997 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

7. Juvenile "Acts Against Property" declined sharply in 1997, and are now the third most common crime of which teenagers are accused.

There were 992 cases brought against D.C. youth in 1997 for alleged property crimes. That was a drop of 26 percent from 1996 in the number of such offenses. Property crimes have decreased to 29 percent of all new juvenile cases, from 33 percent in 1996. The 1997 level is by far the lowest recorded since at least 1980.

The most common kind of property crime involved automobiles—608 out of 992 cases, or 61 percent. In the great majority of these cases, the crime involved unauthorized use of an auto; but in a few cases, it involved tampering, presumably in an attempt to gain entrance.

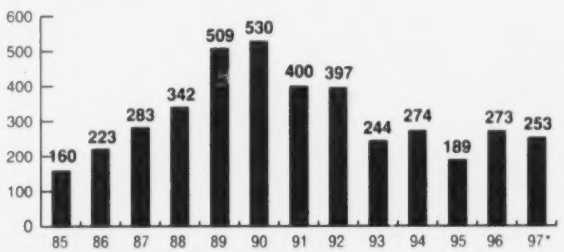
8. Child neglect cases increased for the second year in a row.

Cases alleging child neglect filed with the D.C. Courts increased in 1997 by 43, or three percent, over the number in 1996, reaching 1,386. 1997 was the second highest year on record. The only higher year was 1994, when the number hit 1,512. The number of neglect cases in 1997 was nearly five times higher than in 1985.

9. The number of child abuse cases was down slightly.

Child abuse cases filed with the D.C. Courts decreased by 20 from 273 in 1996 to 253 in 1997. This is still well above the ten-year low of 189 reached in 1995. However, it is considerably below the number of cases filed each year from 1988 through 1992, especially the years 1989 and 1990 when abuse cases exceeded 500. At present, it appears that the number has reached a rough plateau, with fluctuations from year to year but no indication of a return to the peak levels around the turn of the decade.

CHILD ABUSE CASES FILED ANNUALLY
D.C. SUPERIOR COURT, 1985-1997



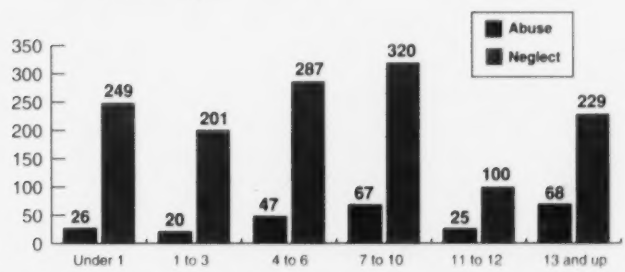
Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 1997 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia

10. The most frequent victims of child neglect and child abuse are under one year of age.

In 1997, 249 District children under one year of age were involved in court cases alleging neglect. This number was down somewhat from 1996, when it was 268, and close to the 1995 number of 247. The age categories from 4 to 6 and from 7 to 10 had higher total numbers (287 for 4-6 years old and 320 for 7-10 years old). However, the 4 to 6 age category represents three ages and the 7 to 10 age category represents four ages. On a per-year-of-age basis, then, children under age 1 were allegedly neglected far more than any other children.

The total number of abuse referrals is much smaller than the number of neglect referrals. Again, however, babies under one year — 26 cases — were allegedly abused more than any other age group.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REFERRALS BY AGE OF CHILD
D.C. SUPERIOR COURT, 1997



Source: Unpublished Data, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

H. EDUCATION

1. The D.C. Public Schools have switched to a different kind of achievement test.

In 1997 the District of Columbia Public Schools began using a new kind of test to measure their students' achievement: the Stanford 9 Achievement Test. The Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills (CTBS), in use from 1989 through 1996, have been discontinued.

The results of the Stanford 9 and the CTBS tests are not directly comparable. The CTBS used median percentile scores, and compared D.C. children's performance relative to the national norm, which was the 50th percentile. The Stanford 9 provides D.C. students' normal curve equivalent means, and shows these in comparison to the national norms, which again are 50. Although the scores may look somewhat similar, the measures are so different that they cannot be compared directly.

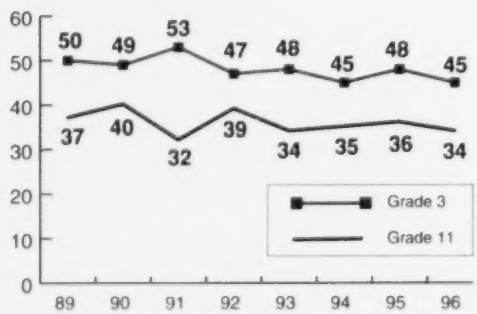
However, to ease the transition for readers, and at the recommendation of Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools, we first recap the District's median percentile scores on math and reading in 3rd and 11th grades from the old test, the CTBS. We note the trends and differences between grades shown by these results. Then we present the Stanford 9 Achievement Test's normal curve equivalent scores for math and reading, again looking at trends and inter-grade differences.

The Stanford 9 reading test results are available for every grade from 1 to 11 in 1998, and for most grades in 1997, with the exception of 7 and 9. In math, they are available for all grades from 1 through 11 in 1998, but only for grades 3, 6, 8 and 10 in 1997. We present the results in chart form for all available grades, but in our discussion we focus particularly on those grades that are at least somewhat comparable: in reading, grades 3 and 11 for both tests; and in math, grades 3 and 11 for the CTBS and 3 and 10 for the Stanford 9. We remind readers that we are not comparing scores from the two tests as such, but only the trends in performance over time and differences in scores between grades.

2. The former CTBS method showed students' scores deteriorating markedly between the 3rd and 11th grades. It also showed a gradual and fluctuating downward trend from 1989 to 1996.

On the CTBS scores for reading, D.C. students showed gradual and fluctuating but nonetheless downward trends from 1989 through 1996. This was true for both the 3rd and 11th grades. At the beginning of the period, in 1989, 3rd graders had a median percentile score in reading that was equal to the national norm of 50. By 1996, however, their scores were only in the 45th percentile nationally. Eleventh graders' reading scores were much lower than third graders' scores. They were in the 37th percentile in 1989 and had declined to the 34th percentile by 1996 with some interim fluctuations.

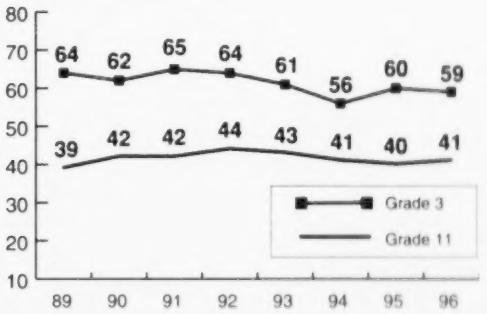
DCPS MEDIAN PERCENTILE SCORES IN READING (CTBS Method)
MAY 1989 TO MAY 1996



Source: Parents United for D.C. Public Schools

The CTBS scores for math showed DCPS third graders scoring well above the national norm from 1989 to 1996. Nonetheless, they declined from a median percentile score of 64 in 1989 to 59 in 1996. Eleventh graders' scores were much lower throughout this period, but they did show a slight upward trend overall. They began with a median percentile score of 39, moved upward to peak at 44 in 1992, and then declined again to reach 41 in 1996 — still higher than in 1989, but only by two points.

DCPS MEDIAN PERCENTILE SCORES IN MATH (CTBS Method) MAY 1989 TO MAY 1996



Source: Parents United for D.C. Public Schools

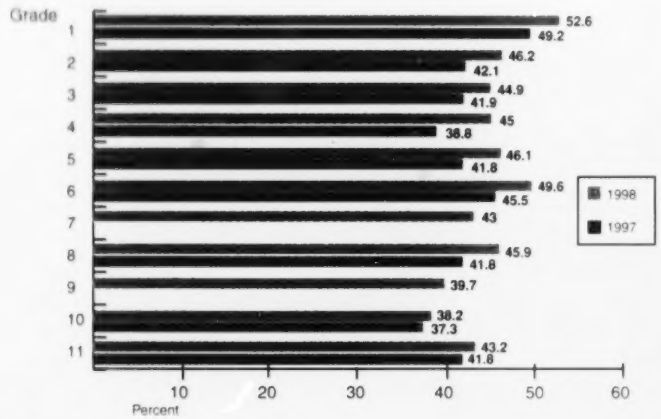
Summing up, in both the reading and math tests the CTBS scores showed that students' performance in both reading and math deteriorated quite a bit as they moved upwards through the grades. In addition, there was an overall downward trend for the same grades from 1989 through 1996, with the exception of 11th grade math, where scores first improved and then declined nearly to the 1989 level thereafter.

3. The new Stanford 9 tests show the same general deterioration from the earlier to the later grades. However, scores improved somewhat between 1997 and 1998.

Scores from the Stanford 9 Achievement Test, as we noted earlier, cannot be compared directly to those from the CTBS. Nonetheless, they do show the same tendency for students' performance to begin at or above the national norms in earlier grades, but then to deteriorate as they reach the later grades. There was some improvement between the 1997 and 1998 tests, however.

In the 1997 test of reading, the first graders scored 49.2, not far below the national norm of 50. By 3rd grade the DCPS students' scores had declined to 41.9. Results fluctuated somewhat in succeeding grades, but 11th graders scored only 41.8. The 1998 results were somewhat better, with the first grade scoring above the national norm at 52.6. Third graders scored only 44.9, and 11th graders scored 43.2. Despite improvements from 1997 to 1998, D.C. students still performed below the national norms.

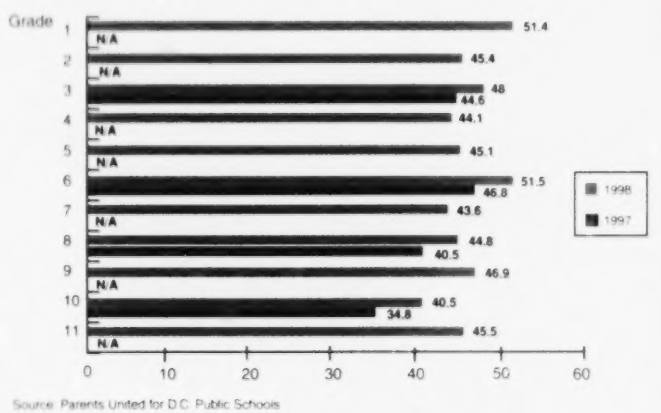
NORMAL CURVE EQUIVALENT (NCE) MEANS IN READING BY GRADE, STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SPRING 1997 and SPRING 1998



Source: Parents United for D.C. Public Schools

In math, the 1997 test results showed third graders scoring 44.6, while 10th graders scored only 34.8. Scores for 11th grade were not available. Again there was an improvement in 1998. 1998 scores were available for all grades. First graders scored above the national norm at 51.4, and 6th graders scored above the norm at 51.5. All other grades were below 50, with 3rd grade at 48.0 and 11th grade at 45.6.

NORMAL CURVE EQUIVALENT (NCE) MEANS IN MATH BY GRADE, STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SPRING 1997 and SPRING 1998



Source: Parents United for D.C. Public Schools

The Stanford 9 results in both math and reading showed that 6th graders performed better than most grades in

both 1997 and 1998. It is to be hoped that future years will show continued improvement of the kind that took place between 1997 and 1998. However, past results from the CTBS showed similar upward movement in one year, only to be followed by equal or greater regression in the next. Thus, the data at this point allow us only to express guarded optimism.

4. The new Stanford 9 tests show the differences in academic proficiency of students at the same grade level.

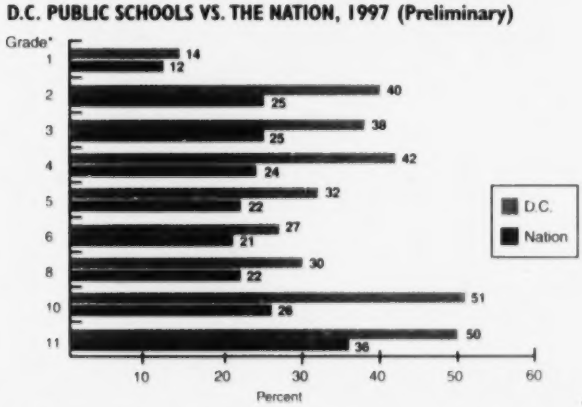
The Stanford 9 tests show the percentages of students in each grade who perform at four different levels of proficiency, from "below basic" to "advanced." These are defined as follows:

1. Below Basic — little or no mastery of fundamental knowledge for this grade level;
2. Basic — partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for satisfactory work at this grade level;
3. Proficient — solid academic performance, indicates that students are prepared for this grade level;
4. Advanced — superior performance, beyond grade level mastery.

The standard for promotion to the next grade is performance at basic or above.

According to the 1997 proficiency level results for reading (the latest available at press time), D.C. first graders were performing almost at the national norms when tested in the spring. Locally, 14 percent were at the "below basic" level vs. 12 percent for the nation. By spring of the second grade, their performance had tumbled dramatically. Forty percent of second graders were below basic vs. 25 percent nationally. In the third and later grades, gaps of roughly the same size existed — widening to 51 percent locally vs. 26 percent nationally in 10th grade and then narrowing to 50 percent vs. 36 percent in 11th grade.

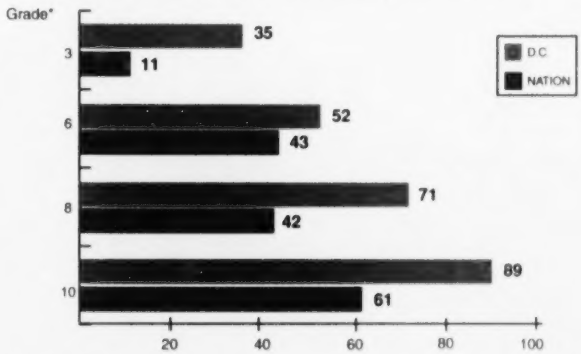
PERCENT OF STUDENTS READING BELOW BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL, STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR READING
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS VS. THE NATION, 1997 (Preliminary)



Source: Parents United for D.C. Public Schools
*Grades 7 and 9 not available for D.C. in 1997

In mathematics, the 1997 data on proficiency levels are available only for grades 3, 6, 8 and 10. In third grade, 35 percent were performing below basic level vs. 11 percent nationally. By 10th grade, 89 percent of local youngsters were below basic level vs. 61 percent for the nation.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS PERFORMING BELOW BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL, STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR MATHEMATICS
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS VS. THE NATION, 1997 (Preliminary)



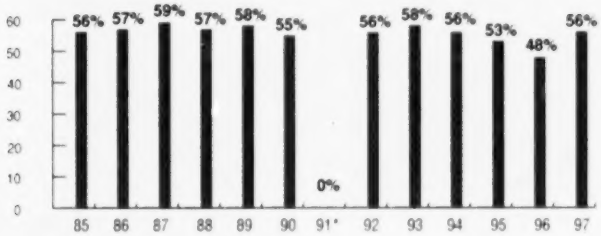
Source: Parents United for D.C. Public Schools
*Only Grades 3, 6, 8 and 10 available for D.C. in 1997

5. The graduation rate improved after three years of decline.

The graduation rate is produced by comparing the number of 10th grade students who were on the rolls two years previously to the number graduating. In the class of 1996, the graduation rate was only 48 percent. It had slipped progressively from 58 percent of the 10th grade enrollment two years earlier in 1993, to 56 percent in 1994, to 53 percent in 1995, and then to 48 percent in 1996.

In 1998, however, the graduation rate jumped to 55.5. This was about the same level as in many previous years. Still, 44.5 percent of students do not graduate. Historically, the graduation rate has been very difficult to raise. Since 1980 there has not been a single year when it has reached as much as 60 percent.

GRADUATION RATE FOR CLASSES OF 1985 TO 1997
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS



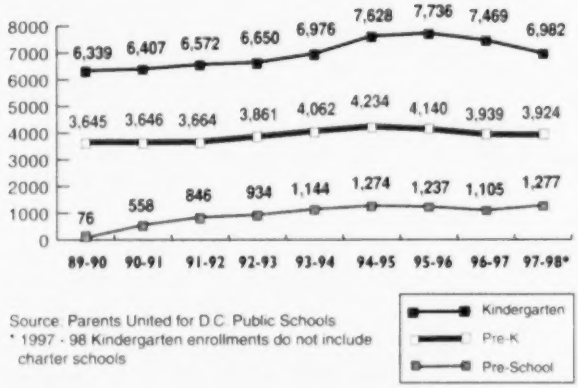
Source: Parents United for D.C. Public Schools
*Data unavailable for 1991

6. Early childhood education enrollments decreased somewhat in kindergarten, remained level with the previous year in pre-kindergarten, and increased for pre-school.

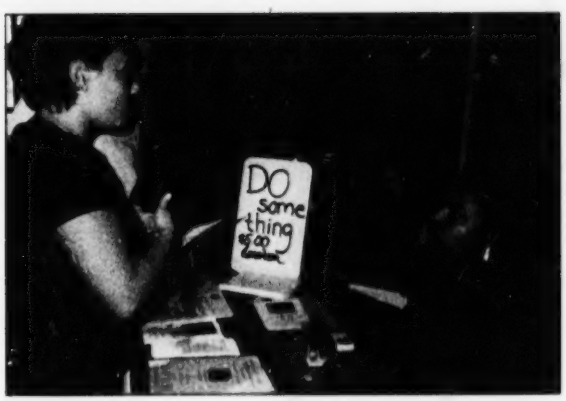
Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools reports that the District's schools are still the only urban school district in the nation to offer a full-day program of early childhood education for four-year-olds in every elementary school. The program is of great importance to working parents, particularly those with limited access to affordable child care, and its value will continue to grow as welfare reform efforts require more and more parents receiving TANF to find employment.

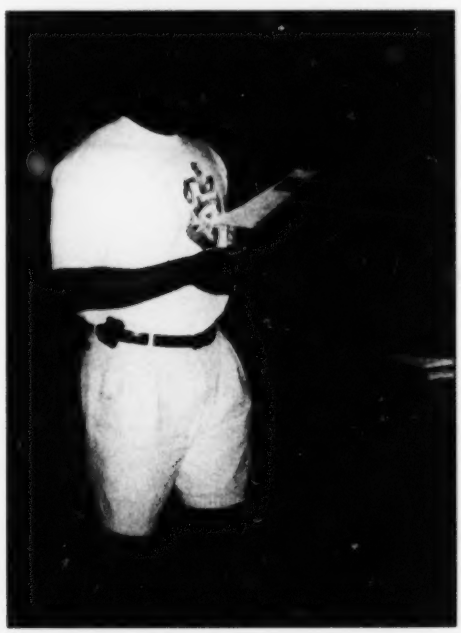
Kindergarten enrollments appear to be down somewhat. The 1996-97 school year total for public kindergarten was 7,469 children, and the 1997-98 school year's figure was 6,982. The number enrolled in public charter schools is not available. There were 3,939 children enrolled in the 1996-97 school year in pre-kindergarten and 3,924 in the 1997-98 school year, a difference of only 15. Pre-school enrollment in the 1997-98 school year was 1,277, up by 172 from the previous year's figure.

ENROLLMENT IN KINDERGARTEN, PRE-KINDERGARTEN, AND PRE-SCHOOL CLASSES, D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1889-90 SCHOOL YEAR TO 1997-98 SCHOOL YEAR



Source: Parents United for D.C. Public Schools
* 1997 - 98 Kindergarten enrollments do not include charter schools





I. SELECTED INDICATORS BY WARD

Ward 1

Estimated 1996 Household Population	63,400
Estimated 1996 Children in Households	
Ages 0-4 Years	3,600
Ages 5-17 Years	6,800

Indicator	Statistic	Rank Among Wards
Total Number of Births	1,255	2
Births to Unmarried Women	763	4
Births to Females Under 20 Years	186	4
Births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	127	5
Low Birth Weight Babies	152	4
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	14.3	5
Teen Violent Deaths	6	5

Note: All data are for 1996.

Sources
Population data: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center
All other data: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Ward 2

Estimated 1996 Household Population	60,500
Estimated 1996 Children in Households	
Ages 0-4 Years	1,400
Ages 5-17 Years	4,200

Indicator	Statistic	Rank Among Wards
Total Number of Births	865	7
Births to Unmarried Women	522	7
Births to Females Under 20 Years	118	7
Births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	114	6
Low Birth Weight Babies	103	7
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	9.2	7
Teen Violent Deaths	5	6

Note: All data are for 1996.

Sources
Population data: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center
All other data: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

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Ward 3

Estimated 1996 Household Population	73,300
Estimated 1996 Children in Households	
Ages 0-4 Years	2,300
Ages 5-17 Years	5,700

Indicator	Statistic	Rank Among Wards
Total Number of Births	731	8
Births to Unmarried Women	50	8
Births to Females Under 20 Years	5	8
Births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	42	8
Low Birth Weight Babies	46	8
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	4.1	8
Teen Violent Deaths	0	7

Note: All data are for 1996.

Sources
Population data: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center
All other data: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

I dream a D.C.
that is united as one.
Where poverty is at a
low and leadership
is at a high.
I dream a D.C. where
youth are heard
and are able to make a
change. This is my
planet, and my dream
should come true.

Kali Abdullah
18 years old

Ward 4

Estimated 1996 Household Population	64,100
Estimated 1996 Children in Households	
Ages 0-4 Years	2,600
Ages 5-17 Years	9,300

Indicator	Statistic	Rank Among Wards
Total Number of Births	997	5
Births to Unmarried Women	607	6
Births to Females Under 20 Years	159	5
Births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	98	7
Low Birth Weight Babies	137	5
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	13.0	6
Teen Violent Deaths	5	6

Note: All data are for 1996.

Sources
Population data: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center
All other data: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

◆

I dream a D.C.
that will become a
peaceful place and kids
can grow up and be
somebody one day and
get a good education.

Dante Adkinson
8 years old

I dream a D.C. with not so much violence in each community, a place where children would be safe when they go outside to play. Everyone would have a good education, and if old enough to work, a good job. Children would have both parents who would take good care of them.

Endia Meyers
13 years old

◆

I dream a D.C. with no drug dealers or killing ...no air pollution because every community would be clean...a place where no one community would be referred to as a ghetto.

Deanna Whitlow
10 years old

Ward 5

Estimated 1996 Household Population	62,700
Ages 0-4 Years	3,800
Ages 5-17 Years	8,800

Indicator	Statistic	Rank Among Wards
Total Number of Births	1,005	4
Births to Unmarried Women	787	3
Births to Females Under 20 Years	207	3
Births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	135	4
Low Birth Weight Babies	180	2
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	15.9	3
Teen Violent Deaths	16	2

Note: All data are for 1996.

Sources
Population data: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center
All other data: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Ward 6

Estimated 1996 Household Population	58,500
Ages 0-4 Years	3,600
Ages 5-17 Years	8,300

Indicator	Statistic	Rank Among Wards
Total Number of Births	905	6
Births to Unmarried Women	650	5
Births to Females Under 20 Years	150	6
Births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	143	3
Low Birth Weight Babies	135	6
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	15.5	4
Teen Violent Deaths	13	4

Note: All data are for 1996.

Sources
Population data: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center
All other data: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Ward 7

Estimated 1996 Household Population	57,300
Estimated 1996 Children in Households	
Ages 0-4 Years	4,500
Ages 5-17 Years	11,400

Indicator	Statistic	Rank Among Wards
Total Number of Births	1,070	3
Births to Unmarried Women	890	2
Births to Females Under 20 Years	244	2
Births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	171	2
Low Birth Weight Babies	177	3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	20.6	1
Teen Violent Deaths	14	3

Note: All data are for 1996.

Sources
Population data: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center
All other data: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Ward 8

Estimated 1996 Household Population	61,600
Estimated 1996 Children in Households	
Ages 0-4 Years	7,600
Ages 5-17 Years	12,800

Indicator	Statistic	Rank Among Wards
Total Number of Births	1,549	1
Births to Unmarried Women	1,276	1
Births to Females Under 20 Years	337	1
Births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	266	1
Low Birth Weight Babies	257	1
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	17.4	2
Teen Violent Deaths	19	1

Note: All data are for 1996.

Sources
Population data: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center
All other data: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

I dream a D.C.
where young people
can express issues
without adults telling
them that they are
too young and they
don't know what
they are talking
about.

Jackie Fuller
19 years old

◆

I dream a D.C.
with no violence...a
place where everyone
is just like brothers
and sisters...
A peaceful place
where everybody
loves each other and
respects
one another.

Leahecia Maddox,
6 years old

I dream a D.C. where everything would stay clean...a place where all children have someone to love them...a place where they have fun and act like children and just have lots of fun. Children could have fun activities and they would be free.

Charnice Robinson,
10 years old

◆

I dream a D.C. where everyone is peaceful. There would be no fussing and fighting or killing. A place where we, the children, get the love and respect we deserve.

Kennisha Maddox,
10 years old

Citywide Totals

Estimated 1996 Household Population	501,400
Estimated 1996 Children in Households	
Ages 0-4 Years	29,400
Ages 5-17 Years	67,300

Indicator	Statistic
Total Number of Births	8,377
Births to Unmarried Women	5,545
Births to Females Under 20 Years	1,406
Births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	1,096
Low Birth Weight Babies	1,187
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	14.4
Teen Violent Deaths	78

Note: All data are for 1996.

Sources
Population data: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center
All other data: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Art by: Benjamin Lagos
10 years old
Oyster Bilingual School

III. YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a new survey supported by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that is being conducted every two years in the D.C. Public Schools and in school systems of many other states and localities. The YRBS covers exposure to both intentional and unintentional injuries, tobacco use, use of alcohol and other drugs, and sexual behavior that can result in AIDS, other sexually-transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies.

The results of the survey that was administered in 1997 were recently released. The sample of students responding in the District was quite large (1,356 persons) and was representative of D.C. public high school students. Like all surveys that rely on self-reported data of a personal nature, the YRBS is subject to bias from poor recall and from the tendency of respondents to give answers they deem socially desirable. However, it was administered at school, and studies have shown that adolescents are more likely to respond honestly to school-based surveys than to mail or telephone surveys answered at home.

Substantial percentages of D.C. youth report engaging in or being exposed to a wide variety of risky behaviors that create risks to their safety and health. It should be noted that many kinds of risky behavior peaked in the 11th grade, and decreased in 12th grade.

School Violence

In the 1997 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1,356 high school students reported the following kinds of behavior on school property:

In the 12 months prior to the survey

- 13 percent had been threatened with or injured by a weapon.
- 34 percent had property stolen or intentionally damaged.
- 19 percent had been in a physical fight.

In the 30 days prior to the survey

- 17 percent had carried a weapon.
- 11 percent reported that they had skipped school one or more times in the 30 days prior to the survey because they felt unsafe either at school or on their way to and from school.

Other Violence

- 32 percent said they had carried a weapon in the 30 days prior to the survey.
- 39 percent had been in a physical fight within the 12 months prior to the survey; six percent had to have medical attention as a result.
- 10 percent had attempted suicide within the 12 months prior to the survey; four percent had received medical treatment as a result.

Vehicular Safety

- 32 percent rarely or never wore a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else.
- 35 percent had ridden in a car where the driver had been drinking, in the 30 days prior to the survey.
- 10 percent had driven a car after drinking in the 30 days prior to the survey.
- 93 percent of those who had ridden a bicycle within the 12 months prior to the survey had not worn a helmet; the same was true for 58 percent of those riding motorcycles.

Substance Use and Abuse

- 68 percent had ever tried cigarettes; 23 percent had smoked during the 30 days prior to the survey; 13 percent of those who smoked had smoked two or more cigarettes on days when they smoked.
- 71 percent had ever drunk alcohol; 12 percent had drunk alcohol on school property in the 12 months prior to the survey; and 33 percent had tried their first drink before the age of 13; 38 percent had drunk alcohol within the 30 days prior to the survey; 18 percent had taken five or more drinks within a couple of hours in the 30 days prior to the survey.
- 52 percent had ever used marijuana; 29 percent had used it in the 30 days prior to the survey; 14 percent had smoked marijuana on school property in the 30 days prior to the survey.
- Four percent had ever used cocaine; three percent had used it within the 30 days prior to the survey.
- 6 percent had ever used any other illegal drug.
- 3 percent had used a needle.
- 11 percent had ever sniffed glue or any toxic substance to get high.

- 25 percent had someone offer, sell, or give them an illegal drug on school property in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Sexual Behavior

- 71 percent had ever had sexual intercourse; 21 percent had had sex before age 13.
- 53 percent had had sex during the three months prior to the survey.
- 68 percent said they had used a condom on the last occasion.
- 38 percent reported having had sex with four or more people.
- 17 percent said they had been pregnant or had gotten someone else pregnant.
- 73 percent of students said they had talked about AIDS or HIV infection with their parents or other adults in the family.
- 91 percent recalled being taught about these subjects in school.

It is evident from these figures that many young people in the District of Columbia are engaging in behaviors that place them at serious risk for negative outcomes that have implications for them now and in the future.

IV. UPDATE ON WELFARE REFORM IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Welfare reform in the District of Columbia was established by City Council Resolution 12-45, "Public Assistance Amendment Emergency Declaration of 1997" in February 1997.

Resolution 12-45 was Phase I of welfare reform in the District, and implemented only the core components of the federal welfare reform plan: time limits for cash assistance, cooperation in the pursuit of child support, required efforts to secure employment, specified work activities, and requirements for pregnant and parenting teens. Following the enactment of these reforms, the welfare rolls dropped from a caseload of 24,404 in March 1997 (approximately 66,000 individuals) to 21,005 cases in April 1998.

In June 1998, the City Council passed an emergency version of the Phase II legislation. This legislation provides

additional assistance to welfare recipients as they move into the work world. Specifically, the Phase II legislation includes the following:

- A state-only program, POWER (Program on Work, Employment and Responsibility), for individuals who are not immediately employable due to medical incapacitation, including substance abuse and rehabilitative needs. Adults are to be assessed by a Medical Review Team to determine the extent of the incapacity. Appropriate rehabilitative and substance abuse treatment services are to be provided to adults who qualify. This program is funded by the District of Columbia so that the federal five-year time limit does not apply.
- An extension of Medicaid from the current 12 months to 24 months upon leaving welfare for employment.
- Adoption of the Family Violence Option which would enable a family to be exempt from time limits on receipt of benefits if an individual (usually the wife or mother) has been battered.
- A diversion program designed to keep borderline people off the welfare rolls by providing a lump sum payment for major expenses (e.g., car repairs). Receipt of a lump sum payment will prevent a person from receiving TANF for a certain number of months.
- An increase in the amount and/or percentage of earned income that can be disregarded when a recipient obtains a paying job.

There is a lack of information about what is happening to individuals and families when they leave the welfare rolls. To date, the city is not conducting research, unlike many other states that have already released findings. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is, however, in negotiations to begin conducting research. It is anticipated that DHS will contract this research out to Howard University by the end of 1998.

Note: This section was contributed by D.C. Action for Children.

V. D.C. KIDS COUNT STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. YOUNG URBAN VOICES OF D.C. KIDS COUNT - YOUTH AGENDA

The current generation of youth is often cited for its civic apathy, but D.C. KIDS COUNT has found that young people in the District are very concerned about the issues affecting the city. They are aware of the issues and are willing to work toward improvement, however, they have felt frustrated at not being heard, respected, or treated as significant, contributing members of their communities and society. Youth have expressed the need and desire for opportunities to voice their positions and become involved in positive community change. They are motivated, but need training, information, and the support of adults who can facilitate their efforts.

Young Urban Voices (YUV) was created in 1996 to stimulate and facilitate the participation of District youth in the discussion and problem solving around issues of concern to them. YUV is a banner under which various youth groups collaborate on civic education activities and service learning projects, facilitated by D.C. KIDS COUNT.

Over the past two years, Young Urban Voices has provided an outlet for youth to make their voices heard. Activities to date include a youth speak out in which young people identified issues of concern to them and generated recommendations for addressing them; a youth retreat to develop an organizational structure for YUV; an educational visit by youth to public school officials; and the publication and distribution of two newsletters to child advocates, program directors, agency heads, legislators, and public high schools. The recommendations resulting from YUV's initial speakout were published in the "Every KID COUNTS in the District of Columbia 4th Annual Fact Book, 1997."

During YUV's initial speak out, youth identified four key issues of concern and outlined recommendations for improvement in the following areas: family and community violence, sexual responsibility, youth employment, and D.C. Public Schools. Youth have expressed a desire to work to make change in these areas and have done so when presented with the opportunity. For example, in September of 1997, when D.C. schools opened three weeks late as a result of a court battle over building repairs, youth met

with the Chief Executive and Chief Academic Officers of the public schools to share their concerns and recommendations to improve the schools and to offer to work with the administration to implement them.

The Youth Agenda

YUV has recently teamed up with D.C. Do Something to increase public awareness and understanding of issues of concern to young people and assist them in developing and implementing strategies to address these issues. D.C. Do Something is a non-profit organization founded and managed by young people to assist other youth ages 30 and under of all backgrounds in their efforts to become stronger, more effective leaders, build community, and take problem- solving action to improve the District of Columbia.

YUV and D.C. Do Something are using the opportunity of the 1998 election year in the District of Columbia to develop and publicize a Youth Agenda to engage youth and create a platform for their voices. To this end, YUV is implementing a "youth VOTE" from October 1-18, 1998, where D.C. Public high school students will have the opportunity to register their opinions on current issues facing the District. The results of the vote will form the basis for a youth agenda. Following the vote, YUV, D.C. Do Something, and participating schools and organizations will work with youth to develop and implement service learning and community action projects to address the issues they have identified.

In addition, youth will be encouraged to increase their understanding of the political structure and process in D.C., to increase their awareness of ways that young people can create positive community change, to become knowledgeable about their local leaders, and to exercise the right to vote when they are of legal age.

The following organizations have participated in Young Urban Voices:

Banneker High School
Alliance for Justice-Co/Motion
CAIA
Children's Express
Children's National Medical Center
The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness
The Community Prevention Partnership
Covenant House
D.C. Do Something
D.C. Scores
D.C. Public Schools
Friendship House
Funds for the Community's Future
Georgetown Reaching Out to Washington Schools (GROWS)
Indochinese Community Center
Latin American Youth Center
Mayor Barry's Youth Leadership Institute
National Coalition on Black Voter Participation
Sasha Bruce
Teens Against the Spread of AIDS
Quadrant Communications

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are specific recommendations, generated by D.C. Public School students for improving the quality of their educational experience. The were presented by Young Urban Voices participants to the D.C. Public School administration in September 1997.

Recommendations for D.C. Public Schools

1. Curriculum

- Have more activities and workshops to bring students up-to-date on what's going on in the world and to prepare them for college and work.
- Raise the standards and expectations for student performance.
- Create a more challenging curriculum.
- Introduce fresh, interesting ways of teaching including the use of technology workshops, visual aids, museums, different lecture styles, etc.
- Assist high school teachers in planning interesting class sessions and maximizing the 90 minute class periods.
- Upgrade teaching supplies, text books, technology (computers, etc.), and furniture.

- Teach test taking strategies including SAT 9 and S.A.T. preparation.
- Implement bilingual education.

2. Safety and Security

- Hire more security guards or law enforcement officers who are trained in interpersonal skills and violence reduction techniques and who have the authority to make arrests or detain people if necessary.
- Improve discipline including conflict management/mediation, alternatives to suspension, and graduated discipline procedures which are enforced.
- Prevent outsiders from entering the schools.
- Prevent weapons from being brought into the schools.
  - Repair metal detectors and upgrade them to detect weapons that may be carried in concealed places such as inside of a boot or inner sleeve.
  - Provide security coverage/monitoring for all doors.
  - Don't allow students to leave school during class periods.
  - Establish an anonymous procedure for students to report persons known to be carrying weapons in the school.
- Provide security to students in and around schools including bus stops and the areas surrounding the school.

3. Facilities

- Provide a pleasant learning atmosphere.
  - Keep schools clean.
  - Hire more maintenance people.
  - Improve bathroom conditions.
    *Increase access (don't keep them locked).
    *Repair latches on stall doors.
    *Keep them clean and disinfected.
    *Repair and maintain toilets and stall doors.
- Improve climate control in schools—eliminate extreme hot and cold temperatures in buildings.
- Provide an adequate supply of books in good condition that students can take home.
- Provide state-of-the-art computers and software (solicit corporations for donations).
- Improve school lunches including the quality of food served and the system for distributing them.

4. Support and Aid to Young People

- Support students in being able to focus on education.
  - Provide infant and child day care for students' children.
  - Develop ways to support young people in schools, families, and the community.
  - Open schools on time each year.
- Make teachers more sensitive to the needs of youth.
  - Provide encouragement and emotional support.
  - Understand youth's perspectives.
  - Work together to solve problems.
  - Teach life skills including social skills and job skills.
- Provide more counselors for guidance and curriculum planning.
- Make a school nurse available daily.
- Provide more activities such as field trips and clubs.
- Promote mutual respect between teachers, schools, staff, students and parents.
- Give privileges for good attendance and behavior.
- Provide diversity skills for teachers and students.

5. Building Community

- Create partnerships between youth and adults in schools, homes, and communities.
- Provide conflict management and mediation services for students, families and others in communities.
- Provide diversity training for faculty, parents, students.
- Give incentives to encourage good behavior (e.g., permission to leave campus for lunch).
- Host family days to involve parents in the schools.
- Seek corporate partnerships to provide jobs for youth, mentors, donations to the schools, and career exploration.

VI. A Word About the Data

Data Definitions and Sources
(in alphabetical order)

We attempt to define our indicators clearly and adequately in the text, and to indicate data sources in all tables and charts. However, if some are not clear, the definitions and sources of the indicators follow. Where we feel there are important limitations in the data, these are also stated.

A number of the indicators are stated as percentages. For those whose math is rusty, a percentage is calculated by dividing the number of occurrences of a particular need or problem by some other quantity to which it is related — often the number of possible occurrences. Then, in order to make the result a whole number rather than a decimal fraction, it is multiplied by 100. For example, to get the percentage of all births that are to unmarried mothers, we divide the number of births to unmarried mothers by the total number of births, then multiply the result by 100.

TANF (formerly AFDC) Payments
How Defined: The annual average number of children covered by public assistance payments in the most recent calendar year. TANF stands for "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families." It replaces "Aid To Families With Dependent Children."

Source: Commission on Social Services, Income Maintenance Administration, D.C. Department of Human Services.

Babies Born Without Adequate Prenatal Care
How Defined: The annual average number and/or percent of infants born to mothers who received no prenatal care or either inadequate or intermediate prenatal care, based on the Institute of Medicine criteria, as shown in the table below.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics.

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection: i.e., the latest statistics in this year's report are for 1996.

Institute of Medicine Criteria for Adequacy of Prenatal Care

Category	If Gestation is (In weeks):	And Number of Prenatal Visits is at Least:
Adequate	13 or Less	1
	14 to 17	2
	18 to 21	3
	22 to 25	4
	26 to 29	5
	30 to 31	6
	32 to 33	7
	34 to 35	8
	36 or More	9
	And Number of Prenatal Visits is No More Than:	
Inadequate	14 to 21	0
	22 to 29	1
	30 to 31	2
	32 to 33	3
	34 or More	4
Intermediate:	All Combinations Other Than Above	

Births to Single Mothers
How Defined: The annual number and/or percent of births that occur to mothers who do not report themselves as married when registering for the birth.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics.

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1996.

Births to Teenage Mothers
How Defined: The annual number and/or percent of births that are to women or girls between 15 and 19 years of age. Note that many of these young mothers are legally adults.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics.

Limitation(s): Vital statistics by age are normally reported for five-year age groups, e.g., 15-19. The national KIDS COUNT Data Books report these numbers in the same way. These and all other vital statistics (such as deaths) are not available until the second year following their collection: i.e., the latest statistics in this year's report are for 1996.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases
How Defined: The annual number of new cases filed with the D.C. Superior Court alleging child abuse or neglect.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts.

Limitation(s): These are cases alleging child abuse or neglect, not verified occurrences. The D.C. Government does keep track of verified instances of child abuse; the numbers are considerably smaller. However, there may be a variety of reasons why actual abuses might not be verified. Both measures probably understate the extent of the problem. Both can probably serve better as indicators of change in the magnitude of the problem rather than as exact measures of the magnitude itself. Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Child Support Cases
How Defined: The annual number of new cases filed for child support in the District of Columbia.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts

Limitation(s): Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills
How Defined: These are national tests in which the District formerly participated. We present the results this year for the final time. We report the annual (May) results for the tests of math and reading skills as recorded for children in the third and eleventh grades, the grades most commonly used for comparisons. The results are reported in terms of the District's median percentile score, which shows the relative standing of its pupils compared to those in the nation as a whole. The national norm is always the 50th percentile. Percentile scores below 50 indicate that D.C. children are not performing as well as children in the nation as a whole.

Source: Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

Estimated Population/Estimated Number of Children
How Defined: Household population and children in households. Excludes people in group quarters such as barracks and dormitories.

Source: Survey by The Greater Washington Research Center

Graduation Rate
How Defined: The percentage of the number of students enrolled in 10th grade who graduate three years later. Note that the graduates are not necessarily all the same children, but may include some who entered the D.C. schools after 10th grade.

Source: Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

Homeless Children and Families
How Defined: Those children and families who do not have a home in which they can live, either their own or a friend or relative's. They may be housed in shelters or in transitional housing, or may be totally without shelter.

Source: The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness.

Infant Mortality Rate
How Defined: The number of deaths to infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births.
Note that this is not a percentage.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1996. Because the rate of infant deaths in the District, while far too high (about twice the national rate), still represents a

relatively small number of actual deaths, fairly large fluctuations in the rate from year to year have been common. These fluctuations have often been reversed the next year. Particular care should therefore be taken not to infer too much from the change in the rate for any one year.

Juvenile Cases

How Defined: The annual number of new cases filed against juveniles (under 18) in the D.C. Superior Court.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts.

Limitation(s): Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Licensed Child Care Facilities (also called Child Day Care or Child Development)

How Defined: The number of available slots or openings in licensed child care facilities in the District on a specified date.

Source: Office of Early Childhood Development, Commission on Social Services, D.C. Department of Human Services.

Low Birth Weight Babies

How Defined: The annual number of babies born at weights under 5.5 pounds or 2,500 grams.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1996.

Paternity Cases

How Defined: The number of new cases alleging paternity filed with the D.C. Superior Court.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts.

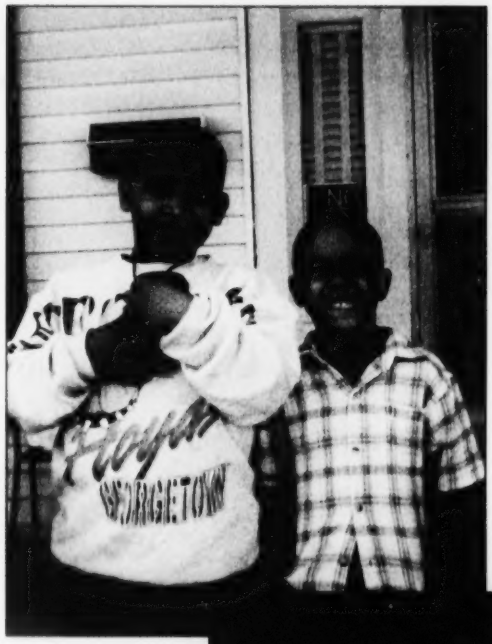
Limitation(s): Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District

Teen Violent Deaths

How Defined: The annual number of deaths from violent causes (accident, murder, or suicide) to persons aged 15 to 19.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Limitation(s): These and all other vital Statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1996).



VII. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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THE FUTURE

by Markita Brooks

Why are my young brothers
Killing each other without a second thought?
Overcrowding the nation's jails
No money for bail
Forget about parole
Hearts stone cold
'Cause they feel society has led them
down this dead end path
Young sisters left holding tiny babies
Who will never know their fathers
Eyes all cried out, but she wanted a gansta
They crave that easy money
A new life with all that pizazz
Soon they discovered that life don't last
There has got to be a better way
To help the struggling youth today
Some of us have hopes and dreams
Knowledge busting at the seams
Don't let us down
We need you around
Please, we are your future
Sitting on the benches and enforcing the laws
That's where I'm gonna be
You'll see God has plans for me

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